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1962/10/27

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DOWNGRADE
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(152)

EXCISE

Eyes only

Cat. A - Caption removed. RATIONALE AND OPERATIONS SCENARIO FOR
transferred to O/CADR EXTENDING CUBAN QUARANTINE TO POLCat. B - Transferred to O/CADR
with additional access
controlled by S/SCat. C - Caption and custody (Note: POL-hour is time of Secretary of Defense's
retained by S/S public announcement of escalation of the
quarantine)

Reviewed by: Elijah King Jr.

Date: 3/13/52

I. RATIONALE FOR ACTION.Escalating the quarantine beyond missile fuel to include
all POL holds these advantages:A. Maximizes Soviet-Cuban frictions engendered by
Khrushchev's offer to withdraw offensive weapons from Cuba in
exchange for NATO missiles in Turkey. (We would thus increase
pressure on Cuba and expose Soviet reluctance to assist/defend
Cuba while we hold firm on our commitments to Turkey and negoti-
ate in New York.)B. Adds an important bargaining blue-chip to our position
in New York.C. Clearly signals that we are making an additional
power play to displace the Soviets in Cuba and induce Soviet
Cuban compliance with the President's demands of October 24.D. Though derivative of our main purpose (dismantling
and withdrawal of Soviet missiles and sites), a POL blockade
strikes at Cuban jugular, will weaken Castro internally, and
will exacerbate differences between the governing factions
(i.e., those primarily pro-Castro and those primarily pro-Soviet).E. Points the quarantine against the total Soviet-Cuban
offensive position in Cuba, which depends on POL for mobility,
deployment and use.F. Represents attractive alternative to achieve our
mediate objective in Cuba by methods short of an air-sec

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO/MR

Moscow 2

DATE 4/1/52

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 4/1/52

IN PART

f (2/1/52)

Priority to:

CAADR

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EO Citations	
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FOIA Exemptions	131		
PA Exemptions			

SECRET
CAADR

~~TOP SECRET~~ - EYES ONLY

- 2 -

SECRET

invasion and without risking major Soviet reaction or breakdown of New York talks. (A POL-blockade is a powerful act which, however, is reversible. A strike, which is consistent with the POL-blockade, at a later point, is irreversible.)

There are no countervailing disadvantages. Problems with allies and countries whose ships are under charter to the USSR can be minimized by consultation and a stipulation to underwrite losses. Escalation of the blockade to POL can credibly be presented to world opinion as a measured increase of pressure to accomplish previously announced and supported objectives. The political-psychological problems within the NATO-OAS alliances should therefore be manageable.

II. PROPOSED APPROACH

A. Play the escalation in low-key through announcement by the Secretary of Defense under existing authority, as the extension to missile fuel was done. (This avoids unnecessary provocation, at a time when the New York talks are underway, without cushioning the power or purpose of the move.)

B. Advise friendly nations, especially NATO and OAS allies at least 12 hours in advance. (This could be done by giving a 12-hour grace period under the announcement.)

C. Couple notification and announcement with an offer to underwrite losses (see below).

D. Reactivate the approach to Castro through Brazil 12 hours before POL-hour.

E. In the public rationale, play down the move as one directed at Castro; maintain the emphasis on Soviet offensive capabilities in Cuba, and the unfortunate victimization of Cuba thereby; and present the escalation as directed at the entirety of the Soviet offensive capability rather than only to IL-28's or MIG's. (Our purpose should be to keep world opinion focused on offensive missiles in line with the President's speech, rather than to broaden the debate to operational aircraft, which might be extended to our global deployment aircraft.

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~~TOP SECRET~~ - EYES ONLY

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- 3 -

III. SCENARIO OF OPERATIONS.

A. POL minus 24 hours: DOD states work continuing on the missile sites and that most IL-28's are operational or near operational.

B. POL minus 24 hours: Ambassador Gordon notified to make necessary preparations for delivery of message to Castro at POL minus 12 hours.

C. POL minus 12 hours: Notify and explain to NAC*.

D. POL minus 1 hour:

1. President notifies Khrushchev of escalation and informs him all tankers carrying POL will be turned back after a 12-hour grace period (POL-hour plus 12).

2. Notify and explain to Organ of Consultation (OAS) and friendly nations whose ships are under charter to USSR*.

3. Ambassador Stevenson similarly informs U Thant and presents US rationale.

4. Chief of Naval operations issues appropriate instructions.

E. POL-hour.

* Consultation will include a US offer that we are prepared to enter immediate discussions regarding problems which non-Soviet shippers may have with respect to financial contractual responsibilities or product disposition as a result of their inability to deliver petroleum cargoes already on the high seas. (This offer might extend to ships of satellite nations but presumably should not include Soviet tankers if the escalation is ordered during the New York talks.)

~~TOP SECRET~~ - EYES ONLY

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E. POL-hour.

1. EOB issues low-key announcement that POL has been included in quarantine effective after 12-hour grace period.
2. All available US radio media inform Cuban people of escalation and promise that upon removal of the offensive weapons from Cuba, the US will undertake prompt action to permit rapid shipments of POL to Cuba.
3. Department of State issues public announcement of prior consultation with allies and friendly countries whose traffic to Cuba is involved and publicizes US offer to discuss or underwrite losses.

F. POL plus 12: POL-embargo becomes effective.

Clearances: ARA - Mr. Martin
 S/P - Mr. Rostow

ARA:RHurwitch
S/P:HCRamsey:mda
10/27/62

~~TOP SECRET - YES ONLY~~

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EXCISED COPY FOLLOWS

2115
DOWNGRADE
SECRET - CADR

P 3105

152

BIAS

SECRET

OFFICE

3105

SECRET

Eyes only

EXDIS REVIEW

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Reviewed by: Elijah Kelly Jr.

Date: 3/13/92 13

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Escalating the quarantine beyond missile fuel to include
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exchange for NATO missiles in Turkey. (We would thus increase
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E. Points the quarantine against the total Soviet-Cuban
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE 4/11/92

DATE 4/11/92

DATE 4/11/92

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 4/3/94

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY

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() DELETE "Non-Responsive info."

FOIA Exemptions (B)

PA Exemptions

MR Cases Only:

EO Citations

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DECLASSIFY as () S or () C

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- B. Advise friendly nations, especially NATO and OAS allies at least 12 hours in advance. (This could be done by giving a 12-hour grace period under the announcement.)
- C. Couple notification and announcement with an offer to underwrite losses (see below).
- D. Reactivate the approach to Castro through Brazil 12 hours before POL-hour.
- E. In the public rationale, maintain the emphasis on Soviet offensive capabilities in CUBA, and the unfortunate victimization of Cuba thereby; and present the escalation as directed at the entirety of the Soviet offensive capability rather than only to IL-28's or MIG's. (Our purpose should be to keep world opinion focused on offensive missiles in line with the President's speech, rather than to broaden the debate to operational aircraft, which might be extended to our global deployment aircraft.

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